

**Issue: EPA Outreach and Redevelopment Talks for Allied Landfill – Kalamazoo**

**Background/Status:** The Allied Paper Landfill is the largest of four disposal areas in the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund National Priorities List site. The site includes more than 80 miles of the Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek and former paper mills along the river, all contaminated with PCBs. EPA is currently evaluating cleanup alternatives for the Allied Paper Landfill ranging from consolidation and capping (\$41 million) to complete removal (\$189 million). EPA favors consolidation and capping because it is protective and cost-effective but has not yet issued a proposed cleanup plan for public comment. Since the release of the feasibility study in January, EPA's community outreach has included availability sessions and site tours, including tours for Congressman Fred Upton on May 27, Senator Debbie Stabenow on July 1, and Senator Carl Levin on August 15. Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell attended all of these tours.

Over the last few years, the city of Kalamazoo and various public groups held the position that complete removal of the waste was the only acceptable option. Since April 2014, EPA, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the city have been engaged in discussions on the shared goal of redevelopment at the Allied Paper Landfill site. Staff from EPA, MDEQ and the city are jointly developing an array of reuse plans that could be acceptable to all parties. As a result, the city appears to have softened its position that complete waste removal is the only acceptable cleanup option. During this time period, Mayor Hopewell asked EPA to reevaluate PCB treatment technologies and their potential applicability to Allied Landfill. Representatives from EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and the HQ's Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) lent their expertise to this evaluation. Due to the nature of the waste at Allied Landfill, the EPA experts concluded that there are no existing technologies that are cost-effective and that would reliably increase long-term protectiveness at the site without significantly increasing short-term risks. The ORD and OSRTI representatives presented their evaluation to the mayor on September 18. On September 19, at the request of Mayor Hopewell, EPA and city representatives toured a waste treatment facility in Battlecreek, Michigan. EPA's initial impression is that the technology at that location is not cost-effective and would pose higher short-term risks than a consolidation and capping alternative.

**Messages:**

- Redevelopment discussions with MDEQ and Kalamazoo have been productive and will continue through the near future.
- EPA will share a proposed cleanup plan with the public in early 2015.
- EPA, in conjunction with the City of Kalamazoo and MDEQ, will conduct extensive and varied outreach activities with interested parties through the remainder of 2014.

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